II. REMARKS

Applicants elect to proceed with the Group III invention, represented by claims 1-26, 29

and 30, without traverse. Applicants have withdrawn claims 27 and 28 as drawn to an unelected

invention, subject to rejoinder.

Applicant's disagree with the characterization of the inventions of claim 27 and 28, and

note that the surgical limitations of these claims are in addition to the limitations of the main

claim 1. The Examiner's comments regarding the proposed Group VI invention are inconsistent

with this plain reading of claims 27 and 28 in view of the language of claim 1. However, the

Action's apparently incorrect interpretation of these claims appear to be irrelevant to the action

taken by applicant herein.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (512) 536-3055 with any

questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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